

I rise in support of this amendment, which I am pleased to offer today on behalf of my colleague, Mr. Smith of Washington, who is unable to be with us today due to a health issue.

I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, which will strengthen our cybersecurity workforce, in turn protecting the security of our Nation.

Our country faces numerous cyber-attacks each day, and as a result, we must ensure that our cyberworkforce not only possesses the knowledge and the skills necessary to defend our networks but also the ability to collaborate with the numerous departments and agencies within the Federal Government who lead the effort to combat these threats.

Information technology professionals at our civilian agencies who may not deal with classified information on a daily basis should be able to provide their expertise and have the ability to work with and discuss cyber-related issues with the Department of Defense and our intelligence community.

To that end, this amendment would modify Section 107 of the bill, which calls for the President to submit a report to Congress addressing the cybersecurity workforce needs of the Federal Government.

The amendment would require the report to also examine the current security clearance and job suitability requirements that may serve as a deterrent to hiring an adequately trained cyber-workforce.

Again, I want to wish Congressman Smith a speedy recovery and encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.